



Vol. 2 Issue 3

38th Parallel

A publication to remember, honor and thank the Korean War Veterans

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National Archives

They served too

Air Force Capt. Lillian Kinkela, from the Far East Forces 801st Medical Evacuation Sq., prepares sedatives for patients aboard a C-54 headed for Japan during Kinkela's 100th evacuation mission. March is Women's History Month.

Davis to speak in Savannah

When Marine Corps Gen. Raymond G. Davis received his invitation to be the guest speaker for the Korean War commemoration ceremony in downtown Savannah, Ga., on April 6 he couldn't pass up the chance.

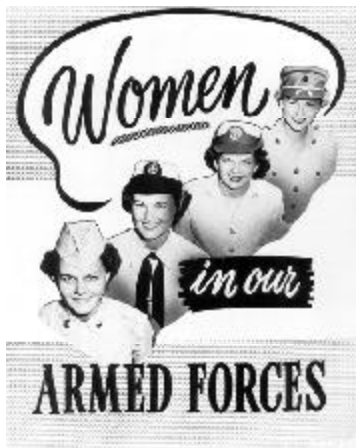
"I know Savannah well and I believe this is good for the cause (of our Korean War Veterans)," said Davis, a Fitzgerald, Ga., native, and Medal of Honor recipient.

The Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee and the Savannah Chamber of Commerce will

honor all Korean War veterans at Waving Girl Park in a ceremony that coincides with Savannah's First Saturday in April.

As the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Davis, then a lieutenant colonel, led Marines for eight miles through harsh weather, rugged terrain and relentless enemy attacks to relieve a rifle company near the city of Haguru-ri in December 1950. His actions earned him the nation's highest military honor.

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Contents in the 38th Parallel are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. Visit our web site at <http://www.korea50.mil> to learn more about Korean War veterans.

Legends from Page 1

"When I got there my regiment didn't exist," Davis said. "I had five days to form a battalion. More than 800 volunteered in four hours."

Today, at 87, Davis remains a man of action, speaking to military audiences around the country. Though his family roots are firmly planted in the South, he considers himself a "full-blooded Yankee," remembering the bloodshed and lives lost in the war. Such memories explain why he didn't decline DoD's offer to speak to fellow Korean War veterans once again.

"What I remember most was the performance of the Marines," Davis said. "The division was divided up into two places in the mountains. We were deep in snow, with frozen food and water and our radios didn't work. Many of the Chinese froze to death. But in the three days, not one Marine complained. We were going to help other Marines."

The 10 a.m., event is open to the public. In addition to Davis, the event will feature static displays that include an Air Force HUMVEE, an Army Bradley vehicle, a Marine Corps amphibious



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

U.S. Marine Corps Gen. (Ret.) Ray Davis, left, was the grand marshal at a Twilight Tattoo honoring Korean War Veterans on the Ellipse in downtown Washington, D.C. on July 27. Davis was a lieutenant colonel when he earned the Medal of Honor in December 1950.

assault vehicle, and a Coast Guard ship. A flyby will include an F-18, HH-65, C-130 and an AH-64. Also, four veterans

representing the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines will receive the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal.



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Army Lab wants DNA samples

The DNA which the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory uses to aid in their identification of unaccounted for service members is Mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA). It is only passed along the maternal line.

Blood samples must be obtained from the mother or any of the siblings (who would share the same sequences of DNA as the mother), but in terms of nieces or nephews, CILHI can only use the DNA from a sister's children.

Family members who do not have a DNA sample on file are encouraged to do so by contacting the appropriate branch below:

U.S. Army

Casualty and Memorial Affairs
Operations Center 1-800-892-2490

U.S. Marine Corps

Casualty Branch 1-800-847-1597

U.S. State Department (for civilian unaccounted-for): 202-736-4988

U.S. Navy

Missing Person Section (POW-MIA Affairs) 1-800-443-9298

U.S. Air Force

Missing Persons Branch 1-800-531-5501 Mortuary Affairs 1-800-531-5803

For more information contact Ginger Couden Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, at (808) 448-8903 ext. 109.

Commission wants photos

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) wants to put more faces with names.

Nearly 37,000 Americans lost their lives fighting in the Korean War. Of these, 8,166 are listed as missing in action or lost or buried at sea. The names of 36,568 Americans who lost their lives during the Korean War are located in a computer database kiosk at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington DC. But the names are missing faces — lots of them.

“About 85 percent of the entries don’t have a picture,” Martha Sell ABMC director of operations, said. “It is real important for the family from a historical purposes. Plus, it makes the certificate more complete and personal.”

By entering pertinent information on the database the customer will receive an honor roll certificate that includes a picture of the veteran.

The commission wants family members and friends to send in photos regardless of size, color or number of people in the picture. Pictures can be sent to the following address:

*American Battle
Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II Ste. 500
2300 Arlington Blvd.
Arlington, Va. 22201*

Sell said the database is updated quarterly. The next update will be in May, just in time for Memorial Day.

The commission administers, operates and maintains 27 memorials, monuments or markers including the Korean War Veterans Memorial, in Washington, D.C..



Tech. Sgt. Michael Dorsey

Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial's 19 stainless steel statues, were sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, Vt. and cast by Tallix Foundries of Beacon, N.Y. They are approximately seven feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 soldiers, three Marines, one sailor and one airman.

The statues stand in patches of Juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which give a semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea.

The ABMC has two major subordinate regions: The European Region in Paris, France and the Mediterranean Region in Rome, Italy.

Women's History Month quote ...

“So long as our government requires the backing of an aroused and informed public opinion...it is necessary to tell the hard bruising truth....It is best to tell graphically the moments of desperation and horror endured by an unprepared army, so that the American public will demand that this does not happen again.”

Marguerite Higgins, Korean War correspondent

2002 Commemoration Events

Regional Joint Service
Commemoration
Savannah, Ga., April 6

Marine Corps Korean War
Commemorative Event
Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 11

Regional Joint Service
Commemoration
Phoenix, Ariz., May 4,

Korean War Symposium
Naval Aviation Museum Foundation
Pensacola, Fla., May 9-10

Memorial Day Wreath Laying
Ceremony
Korean War Veterans Memorial
Washington, D.C., May 27

Anniversary Wreath Laying
Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington, Va., June 25

Korean War Symposium
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Va., June 26-27

Korean War Veterans Association
National Convention, Washington,
D.C., July 23-28

Musical Tribute
Daughters of the
American Revolution
Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.
July 27

Armistice Day Ceremony
Korean War Veterans Memorial
Washington, D.C.
July 27

Disabled Veterans
National Convention
Dallas, Texas, Aug. 9-14

American Veterans
National Convention
Louisville, Ky., Aug. 10-17

Women in Korea served and sacrificed

Fewer than five years after the end of World War II, the United States found itself once again involved in a war for which it was unprepared. Once again, a downsized

served aboard three hospital ships sent into the Korean Theater, and Air Force nurses flew medical evacuation missions in and out of the theater.



National Archives

Two flight nurses from the Far East Air Forces warm their toes above a hot stove before evacuating the last plane of wounded American soldiers.

military establishment rushed to call up, draft and recruit the needed manpower. And once again when it came up short, the services asked American women to leave their homes, jobs and families and serve their country.

The 1948 Women's Armed Services Integration Act limited the number of women in the Armed Forces to 2 percent of the active duty personnel of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. After the Korean War started, Department of Defense asked Congress to lift the 2 percent ceiling for the duration of the war emergency. Congress complied, but although the services tried hard to recruit women during the Korean War, they were unsuccessful, and the number of women in the Armed Services remained below 2 percent.

Those women who did serve in the military during the war were desperately needed. Nurses and medical specialists (dietitians and physical therapists) were the only military women allowed into the combat theater throughout most of the war. Army nurses and medical specialists served close to the front in Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) units and evacuation hospitals. Navy nurses

Mobile Army Hospitals moved as often as twice a week. Nurses cared for patients in the field, often under tents. During the winter of 1950-1951, the weather was unusually cold, and supplies were short. Even water was scarce. There was little wood to burn, so the nurses heated the wards with portable coal stoves. Portable generators provided electricity. Because of the fluidity of the front lines, medical units sometimes came under enemy fire. The North Koreans attacked medical convoys and hospital trains with nurses aboard, but no nurses were killed or injured in these instances. Enemy planes also bombed and strafed several Army hospitals, but the nurses escaped harm. The nurses habitually ignored their own safety and concentrated on helping their patients.

Navy nurses aboard the hospital ships Consolation, Repose, and Haven stationed at Pusan and Inchon harbors were not subject to enemy fire and lived and worked in more comfortable conditions. The ships were air conditioned, and they carried "luxury" foods like milk and ice cream that were unavailable to servicemen and women in Korea. However, the medical personnel

aboard the hospital ships were inundated with patients, and often worked 36 hours without rest. Hospital ships often took on many more patients than they had been designed to carry during emergencies on the battlefield. Often, patients lay stacked in triple bunks. Shipboard life was very crowded, with little room for privacy to reduce stress. Operating rooms were open around the clock.

The Navy also had a large hospital at Yokosuka, Japan, where up to 100 nurses worked during the war. The hospital received Marine casualties directly from the Korean battlefields. In December 1950 the Chinese Army staged a surprise attack on UN forces in northern Korea. The communists attempted to trap the Marines at Chosin Reservoir, but the Marines walked out of mountains under fire all the way. The hospital at Yokosuka received 5,000 Marine casualties within 10 days, many suffering from frostbite, trenchfoot, and shock. The hospital ran out of room in the wards, and gave the staff's beds to the wounded. Men lay wounded in every hallway and on every set of stairs. After several weeks, the crowded

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conditions were alleviated. Soon after, however, the hospital began experiencing enemy air raids. This meant that patients had to be placed on stretchers and carried to air raid shelters. Patients in traction could not be moved, so nurses remained behind with them during the raids.

When the war started in June of 1950, the Air Force Nurse Corps had been in existence for only a year. There was a severe shortage of trained flight nurses throughout the war. During the first months of the war the Air Force was compelled to assign some nurses to evacuation duty who had not yet received their flight training. Nurses served aboard flights from Korea to Japan as well as flights from Japan to Guam, Midway, Hawaii and finally to the United States, where the Air Force had hospitals in California and San Antonio. Nurses worked hard during flight. They were responsible for dispensing medications and keeping patients stable and comfortable in crowded, often cold conditions. Three flight nurses were killed in plane crashes during the war.

Approximately 1,750 nurses and medical specialists served in the Korean Theater during the war. Sixteen servicewomen died as a result of their service in Korea.

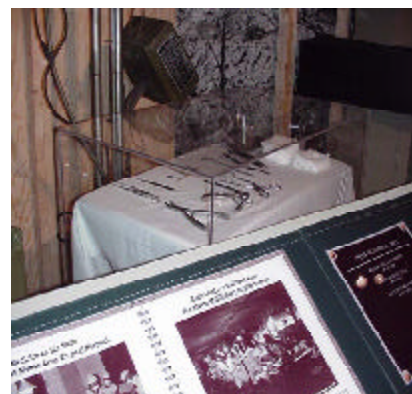
Thousands of servicewomen were assigned to support functions in Japan and Okinawa during the Korean War. Again, these jobs were critical to the success of the fighting forces. Approximately one-third of the WACs (members of the Women's Army Corps) in Japan worked in military hospitals as medical technicians, laboratory specialists, physical therapists, X-ray technicians, medical records specialists, and dental technicians. Other WACs served as teletype and telephone operators and cryptologic clearance specialists, responsible for routing communications between military units in Korea and Headquarters in Japan. They also worked in the casualty reporting

office, the mail office, and at various supply depots. Both WACs and WAF (Women in the Air Force) worked as supply clerks and intelligence specialists in Japan, and WAF also served as Air Tower Control Officers at Haneda Air Force Base outside Tokyo.

Many people today tend to forget that contemporaries saw the war in Korea as one small part of the Cold War, in which the free nations of the world were arrayed against the forces of Communism. Politicians and military leaders alike believed that the Soviet Union might attempt to take advantage of the situation in Korea by launching an attack on western Europe while the U.S. was looking the other way. To forestall this, the United States built up its military forces in Europe during the Korean War. Large numbers of military women were assigned to jobs in Germany, France, and Italy.

Servicewomen living and working in Europe during the Korean War were trained to be exceptionally security conscious, and often experienced sudden emergency drills which required them to leave their work stations and barracks and report to outside locations and practice living and working in tents. Hospital units trained in handling mass casualties from chemical and gas attacks, while unit commanders planned emergency evacuation routes. Servicemen and women were often placed on alert and confined to post. Everyone believed that a Russian attack was imminent, and because the Soviet Union had a much larger force than NATO, the presence of Russian troops on the border was seen as a serious threat.

European assignments frequently reflected the Cold War atmosphere. Many women worked as cryptologists or communications specialists. There were also several large military hospitals in Germany, where many WACs and nurses were assigned. The more servicemen who were placed in Europe to forestall a Soviet inva-



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Most medical attention was served in Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals. The typical equipment table doctors and nurses used in the field during the war is shown.

sion, the greater the need for hospitals for servicemen and their dependents.

The vast majority of servicewomen were assigned to military bases across the United States during the Korean War. Servicewomen working in the United States could be assigned to a great variety of non-traditional jobs, including that of military policeman, weather observer, parachute rigger, pharmacist, paymaster, blood bank operator, flight trainer, electrician, and engineer. Most veterans agree that women who served stateside during the Korean War had far greater career opportunities than those who served overseas. Servicewomen assigned overseas, however, often had a greater feeling of being needed and making a definitive contribution to the war effort.

The problems the military services faced recruiting and retaining servicewomen during the Korean War carried on throughout the 1950s, when women remained a small and under-utilized part of the U.S. Armed Forces. Those women who elected to serve their country during this difficult period should be commended for their patriotism and personal sacrifices. (Courtesy of Judith Bellafaire, Ph.D., Chief Historian, Women's Memorial)



Courtesy photo

Ringling the bell

The Point Vicente, Calif., Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Korean War Commemoration Partners, celebrated the 214th anniversary of the constitution by ringing the 17-ton Korean Friendship Bell donated in 1976 by the people of Korea. More than 200 were in attendance. The Korean War Veterans who rang the bell were Daniel Arellano, James Green, Robert McAloney and Jack Rhodes. The event was organized by chapter member Laura Mayberry who also rang the bell.



Courtesy photo

Veterans take on Dover ruck march

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFPN) During the Korean War's Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, nearly 20,000 Allied troops underwent a six-day journey, totaling 27 miles through North Korea's mountains. They battled freezing conditions while under enemy fire, without leaving anyone behind.

To honor veterans who fought at that battle, more than 140 people from here and the Delaware National Guard, Navy Reserve, Air Force ROTC and Korean War veterans, competed in the 3rd Annual Security Forces Ruck March on base Feb. 16.

Following the march, six veterans from the Delaware Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 3, were honored with a standing ovation and cheers from troops as they were awarded the Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal by Maj. Stanley Contrades, 436th Security Forces Squadron commander.

"Korean War veterans are part of the greatest generation," said Col. Scott E. Wuesthoff, 436th Airlift Wing commander. "The lifestyle we enjoy today was made possible by the sacrifices of the men who came before us."

During the competition, teams of four, consisting of officer and enlisted ranks, carried 30-pound rucksacks while walking or running six miles. This was done to commemorate the battle.

Besides strengthening base-wide camaraderie, the

event instilled a sense of teamwork, similar to that of the real battle, as all team members had to cross the finish line to qualify, officials said.

"Major (Scott) Harbula's dad (the founder of the event) was a Marine who was at the Chosin Reservoir," said 2nd Lt. Robert Folks, who was on the winning team. "He came to the squadron and talked to us, which really pumped us up. In my mind, I kept thinking that what we're doing is nothing compared to the guys at the reservoir."

A team of Korean War veterans, all between the ages of 67 and 71, also made the six-mile hike.

"It made me feel good to see so many people supporting this event," said Alfred G. Lawler, a veteran from the Marines 7th Regiment, 3rd Division. "I thought I was at an Army base with all the yelling and cheering. Today's military is being put in a more positive light, and that is something to be proud of."

The 436th Supply Squadron's Senior Master Sgt. Mark Brejcha's father, Mathias Brejcha, was the last man over the finish line.

"I came in last, but I finished," he said. "I'm really proud and impressed with these troops. The United States is in good hands." (by Airman 1st Class Andrew Svoboda 436th Airlift Wing Public Affairs)

This Date in History

March 13, 1951: The Communists started to withdraw across all fronts.

March 13, 1952: Far East Air Forces flew its 13,000th sortie of the Korean War.

March 13, 1953: Colonel Royal N. "The King" Baker, 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, achieved his 13th aerial victory and became the fifth ranking ace of the Korean War.

March 12, 1952: Private First Class Bryant E. Womack, Medical Company, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, became the U.S. Army's 63rd Korean War Medal of Honor recipient.

March 11-12: Ten B-29s struck the Sinchang-ni choke point, 10 miles east of Suncheon, with 91 tons of high explosives, rendering the point unpassable.

March 8, 1951: The Philippine 10th Battalion Combat Team secured objectives in the vicinity of Chamsili Island.

March 8, 1953: In one of the best coordinated aerial attacks of the Korean War, F9F Panthers knock out enemy antiaircraft positions, clearing the way for other carrier planes to strike enemy frontline positions

March 6, 1952: Master Sergeant Richard J. Hartnett, reputedly the most decorated soldier in the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, earned additional distinction as he became the 200,000 fighting man to depart Korea on Rest and Recuperation (R&R) leave to Japan.

334th FIS used Suwon as a staging base from which F-86 Sabres began raiding the Yalu River area, where they had been absent for months.

March 5, 1951: The Greek Battal-

ion beat back a Communist offensive southeast of Yongdu. The US 2nd Infantry Division, including the French Battalion, seized enemy positions in the Pangnum area.

March 5, 1953: Josef Stalin, Soviet Premier, died. Stalin had secretly concurred with Kim Il Sung's plan to invade the Republic of Korea in 1950.

March 4, 1951: Fifty-one C-119s dropped 260 tons of supplies to the 1st Marine Division in the largest air-drop of the month.

March 1, 1951: UN forces opened a major attack on the central front west of Hoengsong.

Feb. 28, 1951: The last Communist resistance south of the Han River collapsed.

Feb. 27, 1952: The destroyer USS Shelton sustained three hits from shore batteries. Eleven sailors are wounded, three of them seriously.

Feb. 26, 1951: Sergeant (then Corporal) Einar H. Ingman, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, earned the 55th Medal of Honor.

Feb. 26, 1953: The Air Force's 403rd Troop Carrier Wing departed the US for Japan to aid in the Korean War airlift effort.

Feb. 25, 1951: Air attacks on enemy supply lines prevented the superior number of Communist ground forces from winning their objectives. General Stratemeyer, Far East Forces Commander, said "Our interdiction from the air of the main enemy re-supply lines, plus our continued and systematic destruction of such supply caches as he had been able to build up in his immediate rear areas, not only prevented the Communist from exploiting his initial momentum but also enabled our ground forces to resume the offensive."

Feb. 24, 1951: Army Maj. Gen. Bryant E. Moore, commander of IX Corps, died suddenly of a heart attack. Maj. Gen. O. P. Smith assumed command, becoming the only marine to command a major Army unit during the Korean War.

The 315th Air Division dropped a record 333 tons of cargo to front-line troops using 67 C-119 and two C-46 aircraft.

Feb. 24, 1952: The US 40th Infantry Division launched the largest tank raid since the beginning of the Korean War. It was the largest deployment of armor without infantry support in a single engagement during the war.

Feb. 23, 1951: The first B-29 mission using the more accurate MPQ-2 radar bombed a highway bridge seven miles northeast of Seoul.

Feb. 23, 1952: Air Force Maj. William T. Whisner, 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing, flying his F-86 Sabre "Elenore E," destroyed his fifth MiG-15 to become the war's seventh ace and his wing's first.

Feb. 22 1953: General Mark Clark, Commander-in-Chief UN Command, proposed an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners. The North Koreans charged the UN with germ warfare.

Feb. 21, 1951: Eighth Army launched "Operation Killer," a general advance by IX and X Corps to the Yangpyong-Hoesong-Wonju-Kangung line. Gen. Matthew Ridgway's intent was to close with and destroy the Communist forces rather than to seize terrain.

After a two-month detachment to the ROK Army, the 1st ROK Marine Regiment rejoined the US 1st Marine Division.

HONOR ROLL



Bryant E. Womack

Rank: Private First Class

Organization: U.S. Army, Medical Company, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Sokso-ri, Korea, March 12, 1952.

Entered service at: Mill Springs, N.C.

Birth: Mill Springs, N.C.

Citation: Private First Class Bryant E. Womack, Army Medical Service, Medical Company, 14th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy on March 12, 1952, near Sokso-ri, Korea. Womack was the only medical aid man attached to a night combat patrol when sudden contact with a numerically superior enemy produced numerous casualties. Womack went immediately to their aid, although this necessitated exposing himself to a devastating hail of enemy fire, during which he was seriously wounded. Refusing medical aid for himself, he continued moving among his comrades to administer aid. While he was aiding one man, he was again struck by enemy mortar fire, this time suffering the loss of his right arm. Although he knew the consequences should immediate aid not be administered, he still refused aid and insisted that all efforts be made for the benefit of others that were wounded. Although unable to perform the task himself, he remained on the scene and directed others in first aid techniques. The last man to withdraw, he walked until he collapsed from loss of blood, and died a few minutes later while being carried by his comrades. The extraordinary heroism, outstanding courage, and unswerving devotion to his duties displayed by Womack reflect the utmost distinction upon himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the U.S. Army.

